

huge deficit, a deficit that risks the future of Social Security and Medicare and means likely future interest rate increases.

Democrats have proposed a true economic stimulus plan that is fair, fast acting and fiscally responsible. Our plan would create 1 million new jobs this year, provide an extension of unemployment benefits to millions of Americans still looking for jobs, provide tax relief to small businesses to invest in new equipment this year and provide assistance to cash-strapped States and municipalities.

I do not think there is any question about the choice; but unfortunately, the Republicans have the majority and will likely be able to push their tax cut plan through the House later this week. I think it is very unfortunate because it will do nothing to reverse the economic downturn.

TURNING THE ECONOMIC TIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I am very interested in what the previous speaker had to say. The gentleman from New Jersey just went through the President's economic and job growth package by detail, yet failed to go by detail into the Democratic alternative to creating jobs and stimulating economy because they have no alternative. The gentleman quotes the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities as if they are a think tank with credibility. That group is filled with Democratic Hill staffers and former administration people; and obviously, they are not a think tank, they are an opposition research organization, so they have no credibility in terms of what we need to stimulate our economy and grow jobs.

Mr. Speaker, too many Americans ready and willing to work are not able to find work. That is the problem. Companies are not investing or expanding, and jobs are not being created. The President's jobs and growth package which the House will take up this week will help remedy those problems. His proposal will immediately stimulate the economy to create new jobs and provide the framework for long-term economic growth. It will provide stimulative tax relief on dividends and capital gains, move the income tax rate reductions planned for 2006 up to this year, and it will eliminate the marriage tax penalty. It will increase the child tax credit, and it will accelerate business depreciation schedules.

Mr. Speaker, that is a real jobs and growth package, and it is not based on some opposition research organization, it is based on history and we understand when we cut taxes we grow the economy. All of these provisions will get jobs into the hands of people who need them, and money in the form of paychecks, not handouts, in the hands of American families.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the Committee on Ways and Means will propose a package to help create jobs for the millions of Americans out of work and help create an economic environment that rewards investment and risk. The President's plan is an American solution to an American problem.

Congress should get out of the way and let entrepreneurs and workers create jobs through investment, innovation and hard work. But for them to do that, they need real tax relief, substantial enough to do some good in our \$10 trillion economy. We do not need timid proposals or hidden tax hikes in the guise of offsets that will only reinforce current anxieties.

Mr. Speaker, after the brief session in 2001, the economic ramifications of the 9/11 attacks and the understandable anxieties during the buildup to the battle of Iraq, we have finally turned this corner toward greater economic recovery. The American people want jobs, and they deserve an economy strong enough to create those jobs.

The President's proposal will create jobs and, finally, turn the economic tide away from anxiety and into the favor of workers, small business people, homeowners, parents and retirees. I look forward to the debate and its ultimate passage.

THREATS TO CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the previous gentlemen spoke and said that the Democrats have no plan and have no alternative. The gentleman knows that is false. The Democrats have a solid plan for economic growth, tax cuts to the middle class, not to the wealthy, targeting people who are going to spend it rather than those who are going to keep it, tax incentives for small business, which are a solid part of our plan, extending unemployment benefits and helping States with Medicaid funding. The difference is that our plan is fiscally responsible and fast acting and will prime the pump and get the economy going again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the threats to our constitutional freedoms. On September 11, we saw two planes kill thousands of people in New York. Our country has been in two conflicts overseas since then. There is insecurity in the land. Historically at times like these, Presidents and Congresses have run rough-shod over our constitutional freedoms and taken away individual rights.

A few examples in history: When we were about to go to war with the French, the Congress passed and John Adams signed the Alien & Sedition Act

which made it illegal to talk against the government and people were thrown in jail for doing so. Abe Lincoln during the Civil War suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus. During World War I, we again threw people in jail for speaking against the government. During World War II, we rounded up over 100,000 Japanese-American citizens and put them in internment camps. Fifty years later we realized we had done them wrong, and we apologized and paid them a meager sum. During the McCarthy era in the Cold War, 160 secret hearings were held and lives were ruined if you exercised your constitutional rights.

So in sum, war and fear and insecurity can make us lose our moorings.

After September 11, we rushed to pass the PATRIOT Act in 6 weeks. The PATRIOT Act has some good provisions which update old laws; but it also seriously undermines the Bill of Rights and many other provisions. Take one, the fourth amendment, which says there shall not be any searches of a person's home without a court issuing a warrant.

One of the worst examples of a fourth amendment violation in the PATRIOT Act is a new provision called sneak and peek. That means you can have a secret search of your house. The government can come into your house, they can search it, take things, and you may never learn. Sounds like the fourth amendment out the door.

Under the current regime President Bush can label somebody an enemy combatant, and they are thrown into a military brig even if they are an American citizen. There is no contact with the outside world, no attorney, no charges, no trial, and the person may be detained indefinitely. That does not sound like American justice to me.

□ 1245

And then just last week over in the United States Senate as the New York Times reports, we had a secret hearing in the Senate Intelligence Committee. The White House and the CIA proposed that the CIA and the military be given authority to collect intelligence on American citizens. Not even during the Cold War did we go this far. We have always kept separate the FBI, which does domestic law enforcement, and the CIA and the military, which deal with threats outside the country.

There are many more examples of our rights being eroded today. The President must be held to account for these violations. The Congress must get a grip on these abuses. The Congress should step forward, step up to the plate and review these policies and review these laws. The Congress needs to conduct real oversight in public, not behind closed doors, and needs to protect our constitutional freedoms. Ben Franklin said it best 200 years ago when he said, "If we surrender our liberty in the name of security, then we shall have neither."